

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1076

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, MARR, NATO, PFOR, IC, NO, UK

SUBJ: UK/ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE: EXPANDED NORWEGIAN
PROPOSAL

REFS: (A) OSLO 1054, (B) OSLO 1035, (C) OSLO 1034

1. UPDATING ME MARCH 3 ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN UK-
ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID
HE HAS RECEIVED PERSONAL POSITIVE MESSAGE FROM UK FOREIGN
MINISTER CALLAGHAN SAYING HE WANTS TO HAVE A FIRM
PROPOSAL BEFORE HE CAN EXPRESS OPINION ON FRYDENLUND'S
LATEST INITIATIVE STEMMING FROM HIS COPENHAGEN TALKS
FEB 29 WITH ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON.
BY THIS FRYDENLUND UNDERSTANDS THAT CALLAGHAN WANTS
TO BE SURE THAT HALLGRIMSSON CAN ACCEPT FRYDENLUND'S
PROPOSAL IF CALLAGHAN GIVES THE GREEN LIGHT.

2. FRYDENLUND SAID HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY SUCH AS-
SURANCE ON HALLGRIMSSON'S PART, AND HE HAS REQUESTED
UK AMBASSADOR SCOTT IN OSLO, WHO DELIVERED CALLAGHAN'S
REPLY TO GO BACK TO CALLAGHAN URGING HIM TO CONSIDER
PROPOSAL WITHOUT FIRM ICELANDIC ASSURANCES AS AN ESSENTIAL
INITIAL STEP TO BREAK CURRENT IMPASS. FRYDENLUND
THINKS THAT CALLAGHAN MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THAT AT THIS
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JUNCTURE HALLGRIMSSON CANNOT GIVE ANY FIRM COMMITMENT

TO ANY PROPOSAL. FRYDENLUND WAS CONSIDERING WISDOM OF GOING TO LONDON TO DISCUSS THIS WITH CALLAGHAN BUT I BELIEVE HE HAS SET THAT IDEA ASIDE FOR TIME BEING. IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE NEED FOR EARLY DECISION OR THREAT OF INCIDENT, HE IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT CALLAGHAN'S PLANS TO FLY TO IRAN SOON ON FOUR-DAY VISIT.

3. CALLAGHAN'S REPLY SCOTCHED FRYDENLUND' PLANS TO GO TO COPENHAGEN MARCH 3 TO DISCUSS UK REACTION WITH HALLGRIMSSON BEFORE LATTER LEFT NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING. FRYDENLUND SAID HE NOW HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THERE IS MORE SUPPORT FOR HIS LATEST PROPOSAL AMONG THE ICELANDIC LEADERSHIP BUT HE DID NOT SPECIFY ON THIS POINT.

4. FRYDENLUND SAYS HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO HEAR FUTURE FROM CALLAGHAN UNTIL MARCH 5. IF UK COMES BACK WITH HOPEFUL RESPONSE, FRYDENLUND WILL IMMEDIATELY CONTACT ICELANDERS.

5. FRYDENLUND HAS NOT FULLY ADDRESSED THE FORUM THROUGH WHICH NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT CONTINUE IF THE UK AND ICELANDERS VOICE CONTINUED INTEREST. IT IS CLEAR HE CONSIDERS NATO CHANNELS THROUGH LUNS TO BE A LEADING POSSIBILITY. HE SAYS HE DOES NOT BELIEVE LUNS HAS BEEN INFORMED OF DETAILS OF FRYDENLUND'S MOST RECENT PROPOSAL ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY GENERAL WAS INFORMED THAT THE NORWEGIANS ARE WORKING ON SOME INITIATIVE. FRYDENLUND SAID HE FEELS HE STILL MAY HAVE TO URGE THE U.S. TO USE ITS INFLUENCE ON THE BRITISH AT SOME POINT.

6. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT HALLGRIMSSON'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT THE UK SHOULD ABIDE BY 100-MILE FISHING ZONE IT IS URGING ON ITS EC PARTNERS (OSLO 1054) IS AN ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT TO THE FRYDENLUND PROPOSAL, WHICH THE UK WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT.

7. FRYDENLUND IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE, EVEN IF IT CAN AGREE ON HIS PROPOSAL, TO BRING THE ICELANDIC PEOPLE ALONG. HE NOTED THAT NORWAY'S LABOR STOPPING

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LEADER BRATTELI IN NORDIC COUNCIL DEBATE ON FISHERIES DISPUTE TRIED TO INSERT IN PRESIDIAL STATEMENT ON MARCH 1 A PHRASE CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THE ICELANDERS FLATLY REFUSED ANY MENTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. SOME EVIDENCE OF A UK PULLBACK, FRYDENLUND SAID, SEEMED ESSENTIAL. MOREOVER, HE FELT THERE WAS A STRONG BACKFIRE OF OPPOSITION WITHIN NORDIC COUNTRIES AGAINST UK BUILDING UP AS RESULT OF THE CONFLICT.

8. OVERALL FRYDENLUND SEEMED SOMEWHAT DOWNHEARTED
AS A RESULT OF DEVELOPMENTS, AND I URGED HIM TO PRESS
AHEAD IN HIS EFFORTS WHICH SEEMS TO BE ONE OF THE LAST
REMAINING HOPES WE HAVE TO BRING PARTIES TOGETHER.
BYRNE

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